

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE



IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
Masahito KOBAYASHI, et al. : EXAMINER: PATEL, P.
SERIAL NO: 09/667,502 : DATE ALLOWED: March 31, 2004
FILED: September 22, 2000 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2829
FOR: PROBING METHOD AND :
PROBING APPARATUS IN
WHICH STEADY LOAD IS
APPLIED TO MAIN CHUCK

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

HONORABLE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

The following comment is in response to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance provided in the Notice of Allowability dated March 31, 2004.

The Statement of Reasons For Allowance included on page 2 of the Notice of Allowability states that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest overdriving a chuck as recited in Claims 1, 5, 6, 15, and 16, among other features. However, the Applicants note that Claims 15 and 16 do not recite overdriving a chuck. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that this statement does not accurately describe the claimed subject matter recited in allowed independent Claims 15 and 16 of the present application. Thus, the Applicants submit that the Statement of Reasons for Allowance is not applicable to Claims 15 and 16.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory J. Maier".

Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record

Customer Number

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 10/01)

GJM:CDW:brf

I:\atty\cdw\197399US2\Comments.doc

Christopher D. Ward
Registration No. 41,367

Docket No.: 197399US2



COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



RE: Application Serial No.: 09/667,502
Applicants: Masahito KOBAYASHI, et al.
Filing Date: September 22, 2000
For: PROBING METHOD AND PROBING APPARATUS
IN WHICH STEADY LOAD IS APPLIED TO MAIN
CHUCK
Group Art Unit: 2829
Examiner: PATEL, P.
Date Allowed: March 31, 2004

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

GREGORY J. MAIER
(703) 413-3000
GMAIER@OBLON.COM

CHRISTOPHER D. WARD
SENIOR ASSOCIATE
(703) 413-3000
CWARD@OBLON.COM

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier

Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

22850

(703) 413-3000 (phone)
(703) 413-2220 (fax)

Christopher D. Ward
Registration No. 41,367